RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

MAGISTRATES

DEPUTED FROM THE SEVERAL COUNTIES IN

ENGLAND and WALES,

ASSEMBLED AT THE

St. ALBAN's TAVERN,

BY DESIRE OF THE

SOCIETY

FOR GIVING EFFECT TO

HIS MAJESTY's PROCLAMATION AGAINST VICE AND IMMORALITY,

On the 5th, 11th, 14th, and 17th MAY,

1790.

LONDON:

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PRINTER TO THE SOCIETY.

M.DCC.XC.

RESOLUTIONS, &c.

AT a Meeting of Magiſtrates deputed from the ſeveral counties in England and Wales, held at the St. Alban's Tavern, by deſire of the Society for giving Effect to his Majeſty's Proclamation againſt Vice and Immorality, the 5th, 11th, 14th and 17th May, it appeared that the ſeveral counties following had deputed Magiſtrates to attend the ſaid Meeting; viz.

Bedford - { Thomas Potter, Eſq. / William Thornton Aſtell, Eſq.

Berkſhire { George Vanſittart, Eſq. / James Andrews, Eſq.

Cheſter - { John Crewe, Eſq. / Thomas Brooke, Eſq.

Cornwall { Sir Francis Baſſet, Bart.
John Call, Eſq.
Chriſtopher Hawkins, Eſq.
Or any Two of them.

Derby - { Sir Boothe Boothby
Sir William Fitzherbert
T. N. C. Munday, Eſq.
Or any Two of them.

Devon - { John Ley, Eſq.
John Baring, Eſq.
John Rolle, Eſq.
Or any Two of them.

Dorſet - { Hon. Lionel Damer
William Morton Pitt, Eſq.

Eſſex - { Thomas B. Bramſtone, Eſq.
John Bullock, Eſq.

Gloceſter { Sir George Paul, Bart.
Dodington Hunt, Eſq.
Charles Tyrrell Morgan, Eſq.
Or any Two of them.

Hereford - { Hon. Thomas Harley
Sir George Cornwall, Bart.

Hertford - { Charles De Lait, Eſq.
William Baker, Eſq.

Huntingdon { Lord Hinchinbrooke
William Thornton Aſtell, Eſq.

Lancaſter - { Thomas Stanley, Eſq.
John Blackburne, Eſq.
T. B. Bailey, Eſq. To attend if in London.

Lincoln

Lincoln -	Sir Joſeph Banks, Bart. Robert Vyner, Eſq.
Middleſex -	Dr. Glaſſe Nathaniel Conant, Eſq.
Monmouth -	Marquis of Worceſter John Morgan, Eſq.
Northampton	Earl Spencer Thomas Powys, Eſq.
Oxford - -	Earl of Macclesfield Chriſtopher Willoughby, Eſq.
Salop - -	Sir Richard Hill, Bart. John Kynaſton, Eſq.
Somerſet - -	Sir John Trevelyan John Phelips, Eſq.
Southampton	Mr. Serjeant Kerby Hans Sloane, Eſq. James Amyatt, Eſq. Edward Ruſhworth, Eſq. Or any Two of them.
Suffolk - -	Sir John Rous, Bart. Sir Gerard Vanneck, Bart.
Suſſex Weſt Diviſion	John Aldridge, Eſq. William Mitford, Eſq.
Warwick - -	Earl of Aylesford Sir John Mordant, Bart. Court Dewes, Eſq. Or any Two of them.

Wilts - -	Earl of Radnor Sir James Tylney Long, Bart.
York Weſt Riding -	Earl of Effingham Rev. Henry Zouch
York Eaſt Riding - -	Declining to appoint Magiſtrates on account of expence, but ready to attend to any hints from the Meeting of the Magiſtrates
Rutland - -	Declining nominating Magiſtrates to attend the Meeting, having no plan of reform to bring forward.

W A L E S.

Angleſey - -	Earl of Uxbridge Lord Bulkeley
Carmarthen --	Sir William Manſel John George Philips, Eſq. Hon. Seymour Conway Geo. Talbot Rice, Eſq. Or any Two of them.
Denbigh - -	Robert Watkin Wynne, Eſq. Rev. William Davies Shipley
Flint - - -	Sir Thomas Hanmer Thomas Pennant, Eſq.
Merioneth -	William Nanny, Eſq. Richard Richards, Eſq.

Montgomery

Montgomery { Dr. Saliſbury Price
Thomas Brown, Eſq.
——— Owen, Eſq.
Or any Two of them.

The Special Committee attending from the Society, laid before the Magiſtrates a Statement and ſeveral Propoſitions for their conſideration and diſcuſſion, when the following Reſolutions were unanimouſly agreed upon:

RESOLVED,

THAT it is the object of this Meeting to collect from the Magiſtrates preſent, as well the practice of the ſeveral counties on any points of Police brought under their conſideration, as their opinion reſpecting any application to be made to Parliament for alteration in the exiſting Laws.

RESOLVED,

THAT the indiſcriminate paſſing of Vagrants, without previous whipping or confinement, according to the 17 Geo. II. is a practice extremely miſchievous and injurious.

RESOLVED,

THAT the granting of Vagrant Paſſes with-

out a previous examination and enquiry into the ſettlement of the Vagrants, is a practice extremely miſchievous and injurious.

RESOLVED,

THAT the ſigning Blank Paſſes by Juſtices of the Peace, to be filled up by their Clerks; by which Vagrants are paſſed whom the Juſtices never examine or even ſee, is a practice highly improper in the perſons ſigning ſuch Paſſes, and extremely miſchievous and injurious to the Public.

RESOLVED,

THAT it is highly injurious to the country that Paſſes ſhould be granted to perſons who voluntarily apply for them.

RESOLVED,

THAT to remove by Paſſes inſtead of Orders of Removal, ſuch Paupers as have committed no act of Vagrancy, is a practice highly miſchievous and injurious, a fraud upon the kingdom in general, and an act of great injuſtice to the pariſhes to which the Paupers are paſſed.

RESOLVED,

RESOLVED,

THAT it would be highly expedient that the Judges at the Aſſizes, or any one of his Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace, upon a recommendation from the Judges of Aſſize, certified to him, and that the Juſtices at the Quarter Seſſions, ſhould have the power to order, whenever they think proper, any perſon, on his own application, who has been acquitted, or any priſoner upon his diſcharge from the execution of his ſentence, to be paſſed to his legal ſettlement, without payment of any fees, and to provide maintenance for ſuch perſon or priſoner in the mean time.

RESOLVED,

THAT it is expedient to apply to Parliament to provide, that where a Vagrant ſhall not be committed till the next ſeſſions, a certificate, ſigned by the Juſtice, and certain officers, ſhould be annexed, in every ſuch caſe, to the Paſs, ſtating, that the Vagrant had been actually whipped or impriſoned.

RESOLVED,

THAT no Female Vagrant ought to be whipped in any caſe whatever.

RESOLVED,

RESOLVED,

WHEREAS many inſtances occur where it may be neceſſary to relax the ſeverity of the Vagrant Laws; that it is expedient that ſome diſcretionary power ſhould be lodged in the hands of Magiſtrates.

RESOLVED,

THAT it is the opinion of this Meeting that it would be expedient that Conſtables ſhould report, upon oath if required, to the Magiſtrate to whom they apply to back a Paſs, the ſtate of the health of the Vagrants under their charge; and that the pariſh, in which a Vagrant is neceſſarily detained by ſickneſs, or in which a Vagrant ſhall die, ſhould have its expences reimburſed by the county.

RESOLVED,

THAT granting Walking and Begging Paſſes generally, is extremely miſchievous and injurious.

RESOLVED,

THAT where Vagrants are whipped, or committed for a leſs time than until the next ſeſſions, the Juſtices ought to be careful to tranſmit

tranſmit a duplicate of the Paſs and Examination to the ſeſſions, to be recorded; in order that the Vagrant, upon a repetition of his offence, may, where neceſſary, be proſecuted as an Incorrigible Rogue, and afterwards as a Felon.

RESOLVED,

THAT it would be attended with very beneficial conſequences, if Juſtices of the Peace ſhould hold frequently Petty Seſſions, and order Privy Searches; if conſtables were ſtrictly puniſhed for neglect of duty in not apprehending Vagrants; and if all perſons who harbour Beggars and Vagabonds were proſecuted with ſeverity.

RESOLVED,

THAT it might be attended with great advantage, if the Deputies from each County would produce, at ſome General Meeting, the account of the rates of paſſing Vagrants, and the rules and orders relating to the ſame in their ſeveral counties, ſo that one general ſyſtem of removing Vagrants, and the expence attending the ſame, might be brought forward by this Meeting.

RESOLVED,

RESOLVED,

THAT it would be highly deſirable that ſome mode ſhould be thought of, and adopted, whereby all ſuſpicious perſons who cannot, on examination, prove themſelves to exerciſe and follow ſome lawful trade or employment, or to have ſome ſubſtance ſufficient for their ſupport and maintenance, or give ſecurity for their good behaviour, ſhould be made ſubject to the Vagrant Laws.

RESOLVED,

THAT the endeavouring to render general and complete that reform which at preſent is imperfect, in the conſtruction and management of the Priſons and Houſes of Correction in England and Wales, is an object deſerving the attention of this Meeting.

RESOLVED,

THAT the eſtabliſhing proper regulations in the Priſons and Houſes of Correction of the Metropolis (particularly in Newgate) is an object in which the intereſt of every county in England and Wales is very materially concerned.

RESOLVED,

RESOLVED,

THAT it would be expedient, that, in every county a Committee of Magiſtrates ſhould be annually appointed, to examine and ſuperintend the Priſons within the county; and that they ſhould make a Report to the other Magiſtrates at every ſeſſions.

RESOLVED,

THAT the plans which have been adopted in ſome counties, and which have been attended with ſuch ſalutary effects, ſhould be recommended to the conſideration of Magiſtrates in other counties.

RESOLVED,

THAT as the Judges at the Aſſizes, and Juſtices at the Seſſions, frequently order convicts to be impriſoned in the gaols as penetentiary houſes, it would be proper to recommend to the Juſtices in every county to provide accommodations for ſuch convicts.

RESOLVED,

THAT it would be expedient that ſome mode ſhould be provided for defraying the expences of conveying Soldiers and Sailors,

who

who have not the means of conveying themſelves, to the place of their deſtination.

RESOLVED,

THAT ſome mode of paſſing Vagrants, by which they ſhould have their expences allowed by each county, and ſhould travel on foot, unattended by a conſtable, but ſhould not be permitted to beg, might be uſeful, if provided by Parliament, under certain regulations and reſtrictions.

RESOLVED,

THAT a Committee of Magiſtrates be appointed to take into conſideration the ſeveral Reſolutions agreed upon, and that they be requeſted to prepare a Bill to be propoſed in Parliament, which they ſhall previouſly ſubmit to this Meeting, and alſo to produce ſuch other Propoſitions as may ſeem to them to be worthy of attention.

RESOLVED,

THAT the Committee of the Magiſtrates ſhall order ſuch Reſolutions as relate to the Public to be advertiſed in the newſpapers.

RESOLVED,

RESOLVED,

THAT the Committee of the Magiſtrates ſhall prepare a proper Preface and Extracts from the Statement of the Society, and other papers, and that the ſame, with the Reſolutions of the Magiſtrates, ſhall be printed and ſent to the Clerks of the Peace of every County, who ſhall be requeſted to lay the ſame before the Juſtices at the ſeſſions held for their reſpective counties.

RESOLVED,

THAT it is expedient in the preſent ſtate of the ſeſſion, that immediate application ſhould be made to Parliament, to provide that power be given to Judges of Aſſize, and Juſtices at Seſſions, to order any offender, who ſhall be ſentenced to tranſportation, to be employed in hard labour in the Gaol or Houſe of Correction, till the time that ſuch convict ſhall be tranſported.

RESOLVED,

THAT this Meeting be adjourned till ſuch future day as ſhall be hereafter fixed upon by the Committee of the Magiſtrates.

FINIS.

RESOLVED,

THAT the Committee of the Magistrates shall prepare a proper Preface and Extracts from the Statement of the Society, and other papers, and that the same, with the Resolutions of the Magistrates, shall be printed and sent to the Clerks of the Peace of every County, who shall be required to lay the same before the Justices at the Sessions held for their respective counties.

RESOLVED,

THAT it is expedient in the present state of the Nation, that immediate application should be made to Parliament, to provide that power be given to Judges of Assize, and Justices at Sessions, to order any offender, who shall be sentenced to transportation, to be employed in hard labour in the Gaol or House of Correction, till the time that such convict shall be transported.

RESOLVED,

THAT this Meeting be adjourned till such future day as shall be hereafter fixed upon by the Committee of the Magistrates.

FINIS.

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